

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1. A method for rerouting a wireless message comprising:  
2           enabling a user to generate an original short messaging service  
3 (SMS) message on a sending wireless device and request the message  
4 be sent to a destination wireless device having a service provider that is  
5 different than that used for the sending wireless device;  
6           automatically generating an e-mail message comprising content  
7 corresponding to the original SMS wireless message and including indicia  
8 identifying the destination wireless device;  
9           sending the e-mail message to a message rerouting service;  
10          determining a wireless access point for the destination wireless  
11 device;  
12          determining one or more service providers that provide  
13 infrastructure for routing messages to the wireless access point;  
14          generating a destination message from the content of the e-mail  
15 message; and  
16          dispatching the destination message to be delivered to the  
17 destination wireless device via message routing infrastructure provided by  
18 said one or more service providers.

1           2. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination device  
2 comprises a one of a cellular phone or pager having a phone number, and  
3 the user generates and sends the original SMS wireless message in a

4 conventional matter by sending the message to the phone number of the  
5 destination wireless device.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein automatically generating the e-  
2 mail message and sending it to the message rerouting service comprises:  
3 generating an e-mail address corresponding to a domain operated  
4 by the message rerouting service;  
5 adding text and/or data content from the original SMS message to  
6 an e-mail message; and  
7 sending the e-mail message to a simple mail transport protocol  
8 (SMTP) gateway operated by a service provider for the sending wireless  
9 device.

1 4. The method 3, wherein the e-mail address is generated by  
2 appending an e-mail domain address corresponding to the message  
3 rerouting service to the phone number of the destination wireless device.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless access point  
2 comprises a phone number for the destination wireless device, and said  
3 one or more service providers are determined by querying one or more  
4 phone number-to-service provider databases operated by or accessible to  
5 the rerouting service using the phone number as a search criteria.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 determining data handling capabilities of the destination wireless  
3 device; and

4 generating the destination message such that it corresponds to the  
5 data handling capabilities of the destination wireless device.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 determining an identification of the sending wireless device; and  
3 recording transactional data corresponding to the rerouting of the  
4 wireless message so that the message rerouting service can bill an  
5 operator of the sending and/or destination wireless devices.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 determining any wireless messaging rules that are particular to the  
3 service provider(s) that are used to route the destination message to the  
4 destination wireless device; and  
5 generating the destination message such that it corresponds to  
6 those wireless messaging rules.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination device  
2 comprises one of a cellular phone or pager and the destination message  
3 comprises an SMS message that is routed to the destination device via a  
4 short messaging service center (SMSC) operated by a service provider for  
5 the destination device.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination device  
2 comprises an Internet-enabled wireless device and the destination  
3 message comprises an instant message that is routed to an instant  
4 messaging service center that provides instant messaging services via an  
5 account held by a user of the destination wireless device.

1           11. The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling users to  
2 sign-up with the message rerouting service to have wireless messages  
3 they send or are sent by other rerouted to devices that they or others  
4 register with the message rerouting service.

1           12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 enabling the user to specify delivery preferences for the wireless  
3 message; and  
4 delivering the destination message to the destination wireless  
5 device based on the delivery preferences specified by the user.

1           13. A method for rerouting a wireless message comprising:  
2 enabling a user to generate an original short messaging service  
3 (SMS) message on a sending wireless device and request the message  
4 be sent to a destination wireless device having a service provider that is  
5 different than that for the sending wireless device;  
6 appending rerouting indicia to the original SMS message;  
7 sending the original SMS message to a short messaging service  
8 center (SMSC) operated by a service provider for the sending wireless  
9 device;  
10 redirecting the original SMS message from the SMSC to a rerouting  
11 service identified by the rerouting indicia;  
12 determining a wireless access point for the destination wireless  
13 device;  
14 determining one or more service providers that provide  
15 infrastructure for routing messages to the wireless access point;

16 generating a destination message based on content contained in  
17 the original SMS message; and  
18 dispatching the destination message to be delivered to the  
19 destination wireless device via message routing infrastructure provided by  
20 said one or more service providers

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the destination device  
2 comprises a one of a cellular phone or pager having a phone number, and  
3 the user generates and sends the original SMS wireless message in a  
4 conventional matter by sending the message to the phone number of the  
5 destination wireless device.

1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein appending rerouting indicia to  
2 the original SMS message comprises appending an alphanumeric code to  
3 a phone number corresponding to the destination wireless device.

1 16. The method 15, wherein the alphanumeric code comprises an  
2 unused area code.

1 17. The method of claim 13, wherein the wireless access point  
2 comprises a phone number for the destination wireless device, and said  
3 one or more service providers are determined by querying one or more  
4 phone number-to-service provider databases operated by or accessible to  
5 the rerouting service using the phone number as a search criteria.

1 18. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

2 determining data handling capabilities of the destination wireless  
3 device; and  
4 generating the destination message such that it corresponds to the  
5 data handling capabilities of the destination wireless device.

1 19. The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
2 determining an identification of the sending wireless device; and  
3 recording transactional data corresponding to the rerouting of the  
4 wireless message so that the message rerouting service can bill an  
5 operator of the sending and/or destination wireless devices.

1 20. The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
2 determining any wireless messaging rules that are particular to the  
3 service provider(s) that are used to route the destination message to the  
4 destination wireless device; and  
5 generating the destination message such that it corresponds to  
6 those wireless messaging rules.

1 21. The method of claim 13, wherein the destination device  
2 comprises one of a cellular phone or pager and the destination message  
3 comprises an SMS message that is routed to the destination device via a  
4 short messaging service center (SMSC) operated by a service provider for  
5 the destination device.

1 22. The method of claim 13, wherein the destination device  
2 comprises an Internet-enabled wireless device and the destination  
3 message comprises an instant message that is routed to an instant

4 messaging service center that provides instant messaging services via an  
5 account held by a user of the destination wireless device.

1 23. The method of claim 13, further comprising enabling users to  
2 sign-up with the message rerouting service to have wireless messages  
3 they send or are sent by other rerouted to devices that they or others  
4 register with the message rerouting service.

1 24. The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
2 enabling the user to specify delivery preferences for the wireless  
3 message; and  
4 delivering the wireless message to the destination wireless device  
5 based on the delivery preferences specified by the user.

1 25. A method for routing a wireless message to an e-mail address  
2 comprising:  
3 enabling a user to generate a short messaging service (SMS)  
4 message on a sending wireless device and request an e-mail message  
5 comprising content corresponding to the SMS message be sent to a  
6 destination e-mail address selected by the user;  
7 automatically generating an original e-mail message comprising  
8 content corresponding to the SMS message;  
9 sending the original e-mail message to a message rerouting  
10 service;  
11 determining the destination e-mail address;

12 determining one or more service providers that provide  
13 infrastructure for routing e-mail messages from the rerouting service to the  
14 destination e-mail address;  
15 dispatching the original e-mail message to be delivered to an e-mail  
16 server corresponding to the destination e-mail address via e-mail  
17 message routing infrastructure provided by said one or more service  
18 providers.

1 26. The method of claim 26, further comprising reformatting the  
2 original e-mail message to produce a destination e-mail message from the  
3 content of the original e-mail message prior to dispatching the e-mail  
4 message for delivery to the destination e-mail address.

1 27. The method of claim 25, wherein automatically generating the  
2 original e-mail message and sending it to the message rerouting service  
3 comprises:

4 generating a rerouting service e-mail address corresponding to a  
5 domain operated by the message rerouting service;

6 adding text and/or data content from the original SMS message to  
7 an e-mail message; and

8 sending the e-mail message to a simple mail transport protocol  
9 (SMTP) gateway operated by a service provider for the sending wireless  
10 device so that it may be delivered to the domain.

1 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the destination e-mail  
2 address is embedded in the original e-mail message.



1           29. The method of claim 27, wherein the rerouting service e-mail  
2 address comprises a prefix to which the domain is appended to, and the  
3 destination e-mail address may be derived from the prefix.

1           30. The method of claim 25, wherein the rerouting service  
2 maintains a database that maps e-mail address to users of the rerouting  
3 service, and wherein determining the destination e-mail address is  
4 performed by:

5           enabling the user to include indicia identifying a destination e-mail  
6 address the user desires to send the message to contained within or sent  
7 with the original SMS message;

8           determining an identity of the user; and

9           retrieving the destination e-mail address from the database using  
10 the identity of the user and the indicia as a search criteria.

1           31. The method of claim 25, further comprising:

2           determining an identification of the sending wireless device; and

3           recording transactional data corresponding to the rerouting of the  
4 wireless message so that the message rerouting service can bill an  
5 operator of the sending and/or destination wireless devices.

1           32. A method for routing a wireless message to an e-mail address  
2 comprising:

3           enabling a user to generate a short messaging service (SMS)  
4 message on a sending wireless device and request an e-mail message  
5 comprising content corresponding to the SMS message be sent to a  
6 destination e-mail address selected by the user;

7            appending rerouting indicia to the original SMS message;  
8            sending the SMS message to a short messaging service center  
9            (SMSC) operated by a service provider for the sending wireless device;  
10           redirecting the SMS message from the SMSC to a rerouting service  
11           identified by the rerouting indicia;  
12           automatically generating an e-mail message comprising content  
13           corresponding to the SMS message;  
14           determining the destination e-mail address;  
15           determining one or more service providers that provide  
16           infrastructure for routing e-mail messages from the rerouting service to the  
17           destination e-mail address;  
18           dispatching the e-mail message to be delivered to an e-mail server  
19           corresponding to the destination e-mail address via e-mail message  
20           routing infrastructure provided by said one or more service providers.

1           33. The method of claim 32, wherein appending rerouting indicia to  
2           the SMS message comprises appending an alphanumeric code to a  
3           phone number corresponding to the destination wireless device.

1           34. The method 33, wherein the alphanumeric code comprises an  
2           unused area code.

1           35. The method of claim 32, wherein the destination e-mail  
2           address is embedded in the SMS message.

1           36. The method of claim 32, wherein the rerouting service  
2           maintains a database that maps e-mail address to users of the rerouting

3 service, and wherein determining the destination e-mail address is  
4 performed by:  
5 enabling the user to include indicia identifying a destination e-mail  
6 address the user desires to send the message to contained within or sent  
7 with the original SMS message;  
8 determining an identity of the user; and  
9 retrieving the destination e-mail address from the database using  
10 the identity of the user and the indicia as a search criteria.

1 37. The method of claim 32, further comprising:  
2 determining an identification of the sending wireless device; and  
3 recording transactional data corresponding to the rerouting of the  
4 wireless message so that the message rerouting service can bill an  
5 operator of the sending and/or destination wireless devices.